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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Inspection at Malone, Rouses Point, and Plattsburg on account of smallpox.

PORT OF NEW YORK (STAPLETON), N. Y., December 28, 1901.

SIR: Through the medical officer in command, I have to report that I arrived at Malone, N. Y., on December 20, in pursuance of Bureau order of the 18th instant. After conferring with Collector of Customs Gibson, I decided that there was no imminent danger of introduction of smallpox from Canada. There is at this time a lull in the immigration from over the border, as the season for lumber cutting is now well advanced. In the early fall the immigration from Canada is quite large. I conferred also with Health Officer Wilding, and he seemed more apprehensive of the introduction of smallpox into Malone from the adjacent lumber camps than from elsewhere. Recently a case of smallpox came into his office from one of the numerous camps in the mountains, but luckily the case was at once detected and isolated. There is a rumor of the occurrence of many such cases in the lumber regions of the Adirondack Mountains, but it was difficult to get accurate information on the subject.

I next went to Rouses Point and found that no cases of smallpox had occurred in that vicinity, nor did there seem to be any cause for apprehension.

From Rouses Point I went to Plattsburg and conferred with Deputy Collector Martin in the absence of Collector Witherbee. He was also reassuring as to the danger of infection coming from Canada, and stated that the small outbreak of smallpox in that vicinity had been traced to Burlington, Vt. We agreed that at present there was no need of placing severe restrictions on traffic and intercourse from Canada. In company with the president of the board of health and Dr. La Rocque, the health officer of Plattsburg, I visited the pesthouse and also those confined at their homes. From the first, cases were quarantined at their homes, and a guard was stationed near each house to see that there was no intercourse with the outside world. The isolation hospital at that time was not ready, which was a great hindrance to stamping out the disease. On December 21, 6 of the cases were transferred to the so-called pesthouse, some of the affected ones absolutely refusing to be removed. They remained under guard at their homes. Ten cases have recovered and 9 remain under treatment. No deaths have taken place among them, though some were very seriously ill, especially 1, a child only 5 months old. Another case, quite serious, occurred in a woman eight months pregnant, and was remarkable from the fact that convalescence ensued without a miscarriage.

The health authorities at Plattsburg seemed active and desirous of doing everything in their power to stamp out the epidemic.

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Respectfully,

JOSEPH B. GREENE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Inspection service at Eastport, Me.

EASTPORT, ME., *December 19, 1901.*

SIR: I beg to submit the following report of work done at this inspection station during the week ended Thursday, December 19, 1901:

Vessels inspected.

Date.	Vessel.	From.	For.	Crew.	Passengers.	
					For East-port.	In trans-it.
Dec. 14	Ss. State of Maine.....	Boston.....	Eastport and St. John, New Brunswick.	54	16	20
Dec. 16	.....do	St. John, New Brunswick.	Eastport and Boston.....	54	4	12
Dec. 17	Sc. Jessie D.....	Windsor, Nova Scotia.	Boston	5	.....	.....
Dec. 18	Ss. Aurora.....	St. John, New Brunswick.	Eastport and Grand Manan, New Brunswick.	8	.....	8
Dec. 19	Ss. St. Croix.....	Boston.....	Eastport and St. John, New Brunswick.	61	33	35

I satisfy myself that crews and passengers are vaccinated. If not, I insist on their being vaccinated.

My latest reports from St. John, New Brunswick, give a total of 78 cases of smallpox, with 17 deaths, 16 recoveries, and 45 still sick.

A vessel in our harbor from Windsor, Nova Scotia, for Boston had a sick seaman on board last Tuesday. Rumor had it a case of smallpox. I went on board and investigated the case and found it a case of acute gastritis.

Respectfully,

E. M. SMALL,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

EASTPORT, ME., *December 26, 1901.*

SIR: I beg to submit the following report of work done at this inspection station during the week ended Thursday, December 26, 1901:

Vessels inspected.

Date.	Vessel.	From.	For.	Crew.	Passengers.	
					For East-port.	In trans-it.
Dec. 20	Ss. St. Croix.....	St. John, New Brunswick.	Eastport and Boston.....	61	3	71
Dec. 21	Sc. Surprise	Tansboro, Nova Scotia.	Eastport.....	3	.....	.....
Dec. 23	H. M. S. Curlew.....	St. Andrews, New Brunswick.	.....do.....	19	.....	.....
Dec. 24	Ss. St. Croix.....	Boston.....	Eastport and St. John, New Brunswick.	61	60	74
Dec. 25	Ss. Aurora.....	St. John, New Brunswick.	Eastport and Grand Manan, New Brunswick.	8	2	.....
Dec. 26	Ss. St. Croix.....	.....do.....	Eastport and Boston.....	61	3	38
Do.....	Sc. Judge Low.....	Boston.....	Eastport and Calais.....	4	.....	.....